

**REMARKS**

This is responsive to the final Office Action dated July 16, 2002 in which claims 2, 7, 8, 35, 37-39 and 41-45 were allowed and claims 46-48 were merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant greatly appreciates the allowance and indication of allowability of these claims.

Claims 27 and 29 were rejected under § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Keeny (U.S. Patent No. 5,713,256). In response to these rejections, Applicant has cancelled claims 27 and 29 without acceding to the rejections and reserves the right to pursue claims of that scope in future applications. Further, Applicant has amended each of claims 46-48 in form only to include the subject matter of claim 27, to place them in independent form, to overcome the objections as indicated in the Office Action and to place them in condition for allowance.

Summary

As a result of the amendments to the claims made herein, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claims 2, 7, 8, 35, 37-39 and 41-48 are in condition for allowance. As such, Applicant respectfully requests a notification of same at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If the Examiner feels that any matter in this case requires further attention, he is asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is/are captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

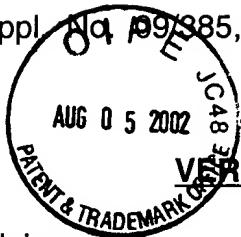
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Appl. No. 09/885,336



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims

Claims 27 and 29 are cancelled.

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46.(Amended) A separator/drive module for driving and separating tickets from a strip of tickets in which individual tickets are delineated from one another by lines of weakness, said module comprising: a housing, inlet and outlet openings in said housing, a rotary separator member rotatably mounted in said housing and positioned across a ticket strip dispensing path to span said strip and extend in a direction transverse to said strip when said strip is in position for separation, a first ticket drive device in said housing between said inlet opening and said separator member to move said strip to a separation location, and a second ticket drive device mounted in said housing for moving at least one ticket away from said separator member and through said outlet opening, and [The module of Claim 27 further comprising:]

a controller in the housing and operably coupled to the first and second ticket drive devices to inactivate the drive devices and hold the ticket strip stationary during operation of the rotary separator member to separate at least one of the tickets from the strip.

47.(Amended) A separator/drive module for driving and separating tickets from a strip of tickets in which individual tickets are delineated from one another by lines of weakness, said module comprising: a housing, inlet and outlet openings in said housing, a rotary separator member rotatably mounted in said housing and positioned across a ticket strip dispensing path to span said strip and extend in a direction transverse to said strip when said strip is in position for separation, a first ticket drive device in said housing between said inlet opening and said separator member to move said strip to a separation location, and a second ticket drive device mounted in said housing for moving at least one ticket away from said separator member and through said outlet opening. [The module of Claim 27] wherein the separator/drive module has only one rotary separator member.

48.(Amended) A separator/drive module for driving and separating tickets from a strip of tickets in which individual tickets are delineated from one another by lines of weakness, said module comprising: a housing, inlet and outlet openings in said housing, a rotary separator member rotatably mounted in said housing and positioned across a ticket strip dispensing path to span said strip and extend in a direction transverse to said strip when said strip is in position for separation, a first ticket drive device in said housing between said inlet opening and said separator member to move said strip to a separation location, and a second ticket drive device mounted in said housing for moving at least one ticket away from said separator member and through

said outlet opening. [The module of Claim 27] wherein the rotary separator member is mounted for rotation about an axis generally transverse to the ticket strip dispensing path.